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May 7, 2012

Senator Rick Jones  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
915 Farnum Building  
Lansing, MI

Re: SB 1109

Dear Senators Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca and Bieda,

I have provided your Committee with a letter on behalf of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, in support of SB 1109. Please accept this letter as my personal support for the legislation.

This bill provides a reasoned, targeted approach to make our communities safer from habitual, violent offenders. These offenders are a major contributor to the danger that exists on our streets, particularly in those four cities which have been listed in the top ten most violent cities in the United States.

While some may cite the costs associated with incarcerating these individuals as prescribed by SB 1109, one need only listen to the experiences suffered by their victims, to recognize that the price they exact is simply too high to be tolerated. This bill will address these costs.

Please support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Larry J. Burdick  
Prosecuting Attorney



## Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

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Senator Rick Jones  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
915 Farnum Building  
Lansing, MI

RE: SB 1109

Dear Senators Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca and Bieda:

On behalf of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan I am writing to inform you of our support for this bill. This legislation will toughen the application of Michigan's habitual offender law to target repeat violent offenders. It will allow law enforcement to make our communities safer.

Our state has four of the most violent cities in America, and the implementation of a 25-year minimum sentence for four-time violent offenders in the most serious, specified crimes will allow law enforcement to take the worst criminals off the street.

Some will likely express concern for the cost of incarcerating these individuals beyond the sentences they currently receive. However, the tangible and intangible costs to victims of violent crime and our communities greatly exceed the costs of incapacitating violent criminals who have repeatedly shown an inability to peaceably live in society. As long as our citizens live in fear, we will never achieve true economic recovery.

Kids need safe streets as they walk to school. Employers need safe communities if they are to grow and create jobs. The ripple effect of violent crime perpetuated by repeat offenders undermines education, investment, and economic growth, and damages our communities for generations.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Larry Burdick, President